

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2004 LEGISLATURE



**State
Representative
Barbara
Bailey**

10th District

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fiscal responsibility is first and foremost in my mind as I get ready to serve you again in Olympia. Families and employers deserve our continued diligence as we create a 2004 supplemental budget that is sustainable and doesn't add to our existing tax burden.

With local priorities in mind, I strive to work in cooperation with fellow lawmakers to accomplish the hard tasks before us, including putting Washington back on track to economic prosperity, making sure families have access to affordable health care, and maintaining quality in our schools.

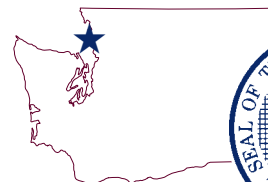
We must also maintain a responsible approach to deciding what state government can effectively do for its citizens. We do that by evaluating our priorities, examining where and how efficiently tax dollars are being spent, and paying for key programs with existing resources.

Your input helps me do a better job of representing you and your family. Please continue to share your thoughts, concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Barbara Bailey
State Representative



State Representative
10th Legislative District

BARBARA BAILEY

Continuing economic recovery to bring jobs home



I continue to work on creating a business climate that grows our economy and makes Washington more competitive for attracting and keeping family wage jobs in our communities.

Last session, we effectively closed a \$2.7 billion budget hole without raising taxes. We managed to help the neediest in our communities and maintain budget reserves of \$488 million.

Boeing's decision to build its 7E7 here in Washington is a good sign we're on the right track. We must continue to be fiscally responsible in 2004, while we protect families and position our state for an economic recovery.

I support passing a supplemental budget that is sustainable and doesn't require new taxes or cut core programs. We must also create a reliable "rainy-day fund" to protect taxpayers against needless tax increases in lean times.

Doing something about the health care crisis



Washington families, especially in rural areas, are losing access to health care services. The Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) reports a 31 percent increase in the number of doctors leaving our state. Nineteen percent of WSMA doctors say they've stopped delivering babies and another eight percent say they plan to stop in the near future.

Affordable health care continues to be out of reach for many families. While the vast majority of people have health care coverage, the cost of that coverage is creating a crisis. A health care tour I conducted last fall reinforces this and points to the "local" crisis we face here at home.

As the Ranking Republican on the House Health Care Committee, I'll support legislation designed to help solve our crisis and offer families access to more affordable health care services. Specifically, I'm calling for:

- Removal of state government mandates to give employers greater flexibility to offer working families affordable, basic health coverage.
- Liability reforms to control the escalating cost that doctors must pay for medical malpractice insurance.



Rep. Bailey confers with fellow lawmakers on the House floor.

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2004 LEGISLATURE

Quality education for all our children demands more from us

The students in our K-12 education system represent the hopes and dreams of our future. We must strengthen our schools and provide all students with quality, basic education. I'll work with fellow lawmakers to create a system that rewards successful educators and removes institutional barriers to create the best learning environment and attract the most talented professionals by:



- Improving the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) by allowing for retesting.
- Ensuring each classroom has an effective and empowered teacher by recruiting, retaining and rewarding quality teachers.
- Allowing districts to create opportunity schools.
- Preventing situations experienced in previous teachers' strikes that put us at odds with one another, and cause undue suffering for children and families.

Education is the number one constitutional priority of the state; hence 45 percent of the state budget goes to support K-12.

In addition to placing significant emphasis on helping every child succeed and empowering teachers, administrators and volunteers, we must make sure Washington becomes a vital place to do business.

A strong economic backbone will provide the funding necessary to afford state government essentials such as education. When job providers succeed, families also benefit because parents are gainfully employed.

Following through on reforms to provide jobs and prosperity

To support job providers and create new employment opportunities for more people in Washington, we must:

- Reform the Worker's Compensation program and follow on the good work started last session to find new and better ways of implementing this program.



- Lift the regulatory burden by demanding more accountability in the rule-making process by our state agencies, and improve the public's trust and give local government, job providers and citizens more control.
- Renew and extend tax incentives for high-tech Research and Development and rural communities to help encourage investment in Washington and create jobs.

State Representative
10th Legislative District

BARBARA BAILEY

**Keep in touch...
I'd like to hear
from you**

If you have questions or ideas about issues being addressed by the Legislature, please contact me. Because we are entering an election year, the law allows us to send you only two House-sponsored mailings between now and November; this one at the beginning of the legislative session and another after it ends to brief you on progress made.

We can, however, continue our communication and correspond with constituents who contact us. My job is to represent and serve you. I look forward to your calls, letters and e-mails!

**Contact
Information**

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- Children and Family Services
- Transportation

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State Representative

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